

REMARKS

Unity of Invention

Claims 1-18 are pending and are subject to a Unity of Invention restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and 372 for reciting inventions or groups of inventions that are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. (See, Office Communication, at page 2). Applicants respectfully traverse as hereinafter set forth.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-14, 17 and 18.

According to MPEP § 803, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without a serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. Since claims 15-16, placed in Group II, depend from claim 7 and are directed to methods for measuring ADAMTS-13 activity in a subject or plasma from a subject (which are placed in Group I), by searching one group the Examiner is necessarily searching the other group since the claims are so closely related in subject matter. Therefore, it would not be an undue burden to search all of claims 1-18.

The Applicants respectfully traverse. The Examiner is additionally reminded that because the present Restriction is between a product (claims 1-14, 17 and 18) and its process of use (claims 15 and 16), where Applicants elect claims directed to the product, and a product is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claims will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of M.P.E.P. § 821.04. Such process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product are entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Furthermore, in the event of rejoinder, Applicants understand that the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims must be fully examined for patentability according to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.104.

As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner rejoin Groups I and II.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Unity of Invention Requirement of claims 1-18 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

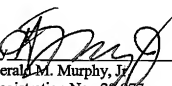
If the Examiner has any questions or comments, please contact Paul D. Pyla, Registration No 59,228, at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated:

JUL 29 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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